

Serial No. 10/022,655
Amendment dated February 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 27, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete from the specification the following heading and paragraph beginning at Page 1, line, 3:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 1, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

*A1
could*

This application is related to commonly owned provisional application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DIGITAL TV NAVIGATOR AND EPG", attorney docket no 4665/4, serial number 60/_____ 60/340,329, said application filed on December 13, 2001 and hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 10, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

*A2
could*

Menu software 118 is stored in the set top terminal's memory 112 and provides a menu-based interface for configuring the present system. Menu software 118 responds to commands provided by the user through the use of an input device (not pictured). Through the menu interface provided by the menu software 118, a user able to customize features of the operating system 114 and presentation software 116, as well as other software components resident on the set top terminal 102. For example, using the menu ~~software 118~~ software 118, a

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*A2
concl.*

user is capable of setting parental passwords, setting purchase passwords, and locking or unlocking channels. The menu software 118 may also be used to generate lists of favorite channels, which may be activated and traversed by the user. Indeed, the menu software is constructed to allow configuration of all aspects of set top audio and video presentation, as well as the full screen and surf guides generated by the presentation software 116.

Please ~~replace~~ the paragraph beginning at Page 13, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

*A3
concl.*

A high level method of automatically selecting a user's favorite channels using embodiments of the system introduced in Figs. 1 and 2 is presented in ~~Fig. 3~~ Fig. 3. The method is initiated when the set top terminal is powered on, step 302. Upon powering up the terminal, the OS and other software components are initiated and data structures used to maintain channel and view counts are initialized to zero. Specifically, the favorite selection software is initiated to automatically track a user's favorite channels as manifested by their viewing behavior. The OS, favorite selection, and other software components of the system are initiated and the favorite selection software monitors any user input performed by the user using the input device, step 304.

Please ~~insert~~ the following three paragraphs at a new paragraph position beginning on Page 19, line 21:

*A4
cont'd*

As stated above, the identifier and indicator for the tuned channel may be compared to the list of automatic favorite channels to determine if the indicator is greater than any indicator in the list of automatic favorite channels. Where the

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*A4
could*

indicator is greater than any indicator comprising the list of automatic favorite channels, the identifier and indicator are added to the list of automatic favorite channels. Any identifier whose indicator falls beyond a view threshold is removed from the list of automatic favorite channels. The view threshold value for determining whether a channel is included in the list of automatic favorite channels comprises the indicators of the N^{th} highest channels, e.g., the tenth indicator in the top ten indicators. Alternatively, the system and method of the present invention may use a combination of the number of times a user accesses a particular channel and the amount of time spent viewing the channel. According to this embodiment, the indicator may be a single value derived from the number of times a channel is viewed in conjunction with the time that the channel was viewed or may be multiple distinct values associated with each channel identifier.

According to other embodiments, the view threshold value for determining whether a channel is included in the list of automatic favorite channels comprises setting the threshold to a user defined value. The view threshold value for determining whether a channel is included in the list of automatic favorites may also comprise setting the threshold to a value set dynamically by a content service provider. In keeping with other embodiments of the invention, a mechanism is provided for "aging" any channels automatically as favorite channels. Accordingly, when a user has failed to view a channel for a number of days that exceeds a threshold value, the indicator for the particular channel may be decremented and removed from the list of automatic favorites as is

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appropriate for the channel after decrementing the number of views. For example, where a user does not view a particular channel for a twenty-four hour period, the indicator for that channel is decremented by a value of one.

A4
cancel.

The method of automatically flagging one or more channels broadcast over a distribution network as a favorite channel may also comprise the steps of comparing a duration that the channel is viewed to a time threshold. An identifier is recorded for the channel and the indicator of the number of times the channel has been tuned is incremented when the channel is viewed for a duration that is greater than the time threshold.
